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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/597,354

08/14/2006

Roberto Casonati

102792-600 (11374P6 US)

9816

27389 7590 08/13/2008  
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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, HAIDUNG D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

4171

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/13/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/597,354	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CASONATI, ROBERTO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Haidung D. Nguyen	<b>Art Unit</b> 4171	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/21/06 and 12/19/06</u> .                                    | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. **Claims 1 and 3-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fry et al (5,360,567).**

3. The applicant claims a compressed water-softening composition comprising at least one water-softening active and a blend of disintegrating agents comprising: a cross linked polyplasdone, a water swellable cellulose and, optionally a water soluble salt.

4. Regarding claim 1, Fry et al ["Fry"] discloses a tablet of compacted particulate detergent composition comprising a detergent-active compound, a detergent builder, and optionally other detergent ingredients (Abstract). The detergent builder being crystalline sodium aluminosilicate ion-exchange detergency builders such as zeolite A and X (column 8, lines 22-53). Other detergent ingredients include binder/disintegrant such as cross-linked polyvinyl pyrrolidone and cellulose that are physical disintegrants that act by swelling (column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 9); effervescent disintegrants include weak acids and acid salts (column 6, lines 43-46).

5. Regarding claims 3, 4, 12 and 13, Fry discloses the composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the binder/disintegrant is used in an amount within the range of 0.1 to 10% by weight (column 6, lines 19-21).

6. Regarding claims 5 and 14, Fry discloses the composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-soluble salt has a solubility of at least 50g/100g of deionized water at 20°C (sodium citrate solubility in water at 72 g/100 ml – example 16).

7. Regarding claims 6 and 15, Fry discloses the composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-swellaable cellulose has a water uptake of at least 15g of deionized water at 20°C per 1 gram of cellulose (sodium carboxymethylcellulose – column 5, line 63 to column 6, line 9).

8. Regarding claims 7 and 16, Fry discloses the composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the water-softening active is selected from the group: ion exchange agents, ion capture agents, and anti-nucleating agents (zeolite A and X – column 8, lines 47-53).

9. Regarding claims 8-11, Fry discloses the composition as set forth in claim 1, wherein the cross linked polyplasdone or the water-swellaable cellulose is present in an amount of up to 1.4% by weight of said composition or up to 95% by weight of the blend of disintegrating agents (the binder/disintegrant is 0.1 to 10% by weight of the

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composition wherein the cellulose content is about 0.9% - column 6, lines 19-21 and column 10, line 67).

**10. Claims 1-7 and 14-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Holderbaum et al (WO00/04122). The examiner used the English equivalent document US patent No. 6,750,193 for the rejection purposes.**

11. Regarding claims 1, 5-7, 14-16, Holderbaum et al ["Holderbaum"] discloses a cleaning tablet including water-softening tablet comprising least one water-softening active (ion exchange agents zeolites A and X – column 3, line 57), a cross-linked polyplasdone (polyvinylpyrrolidone - column 8, line 59), a water swellable cellulose (carboxymethyl cellulose - column 9, line 19), and water soluble salt (trisodium citrate solubility in water of 72 g/100 ml – column 4, line 37).

12. Regarding claims 3 and 4, Holderbaum discloses water-softening tablets as set forth in 1 containing 0.5% to 10% by weight of one or more disintegrators (polyvinylpyrrolidone and cellulose-based – column 8, lines 62-64).

13. Regarding claims 2, 17-19, Holderbaum discloses water-softening tablets are free from surfactants (column 4, lines 60-61).

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Haidung D. Nguyen whose telephone number is (571)270-5455. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th: 9:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Tarazano can be reached on 572-272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/D. Lawrence Tarazano/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 4171

Haidung D Nguyen  
Examiner  
Art Unit 4171

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